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knowledge refuse deliberately or because they are congenitally incapable of anything else. These constitute the irreducible minimum of the incapable group."

Of the several literary essays that are included in this volume the only remarkable piece is that entitled "A Friend of Cassanova's," a study of Justina Wynne, whose *Essays* are "more instructive and more amusing than many bepraised books of today." Here, if not elsewhere one finds instances of Mr. Ellis's unusual psychological and literary penetration.

TRAILING THE BOLSHEVIKI. By Carl W. Ackerman, special correspondent of the *New York Times*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

From Mr. Ackerman's fascinating, if somewhat unsystematic and confusing account of conditions in Russia, as he saw them during an extended stay, three principal ideas emerge. Sometimes Mr. Ackerman's facts strikingly confirm his general views; sometimes they seem comparatively unrelated, so that one reads with little sense of being generally enlightened; but always they are interesting.

In the first place, there is in Russia no true public opinion—only a great variety of opinions. Here are some of the expressions that Mr. Ackerman heard:

"1. Russia can never help herself to order. There never will be a strong government in Russia until the Allies establish such a government and maintain it.

"2. Without military aid from the Allies the Bolsheviks will never be overthrown.

"3. If all foreigners would get out of Russia and let the Russian people alone, there would soon be order here.

"4. A military dictatorship is the only solution of Russia's present problems.

"5. The Russian people want a monarchy. A Socialist government is not the wish of a majority of the people.

"6. The Social Revolutionists made the first revolution a success, and Russia's salvation lies in their hands.

In all, the author gives twelve different varieties of opinion current in Asiatic Russia today. What it all means is comparatively simple. "'To our homes,' and not 'To the front,' is the cry of the Russian people today. If the wish of these people could be expressed in a few words, it would be this: 'Let us live at home in peace.'"

In the second place, the failure of the Allies to support the All-Russian Government was a calamity for Russia. "The All-Russian Government was not doomed to death, but done to death by the failure of the Allies in uniting upon a Russian policy. But for this mistake the history of Russia today might be totally different." The responsibility rests largely with America. Our representatives in Russia had sent to President Wilson a report recommending that a small detachment of men be sent from Vladivostok, together with detachments representing other nations to the Ural front to assist the Czechoslovaks. After careful consideration, the President replied that the proposed plan had been vetoed by the chief of staff of the army. Thus

by "the failure of the United States to join the Allies and do what obviously should have been done" the whole course of Russia's future was changed.

In the third place, there is in Russia a nucleus for future reconstruction from within. This is the amazingly successful organization of co-operative societies, having nothing to do with the Bolshevik Government, which have saved the country, in part, from economic anarchy. Here at least one finds Russian efficiency. Mr. Ackerman's account of the Russian Co-operative Unions is instructive and hopeful.

There is no great mystery about Bolshevism itself, one gathers from this book. It is the rule of the under dog. It is a form of anarchy that inevitably springs up after war, and before reconstruction, like fire-weed on a field burnt over and not tilled. That it is not only different from the League of Nations plan, but so strictly opposed to it that the one is the only alternative to the other, is an assumption that Mr. Ackerman frequently states, but never proves.